SECRET
Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200030005-6

NSC BRIEFING

9 March 1960

BACKGROUND

WEST INDIES FEDERATION POLICY PAPER

I. Struggle between advocates of a centralized federation and states rightists coming to a head this year.

A. Premier Williams of Trinidad wants a stronger federation with a federal income tax and a customs union.

B. Jamaica, determined to conserve its economic autonomy opposes a strong center.

1. Premier Manley threatens to secede unless satisfied.

2. All other islands willing to make broad concessions to keep Jamaica within Federation. Constitutional committee recently satisfied Jamaica's demand for proportional representation by allocating it 48 percent of the seats in proposal for new legislature.

C. Constitutional conference adjourned last fall may reconvene this spring.

II. Once constitutional framework is agreed, and approved by London, independence may come shortly, but probably not before 1961 at earliest.

III. Preparations now under way for tripartite talks with Federation on revision of 1941 US-UK base agreement.

DOCUMENT NO. 2
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
X DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 1-29-80 REVIEWER: 372044

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200030005-6
SECRET

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200030005-6

A. Of many sites obtained, US now uses principally 13, mainly missile-tracking and radar stations. Only one over which there is controversy is naval facility and missile tracking station at Chaguaramas Trinidad, which Williams still wants for the federal capital.

B. West Indians want to revise agreement only, not abolish bases. Demands center on release of unused areas, compensation, and considerable shortening of 99-year lease.

IV. Serious snag caused by Williams comment to US consul on 4 March that he is "washing his hands" of conference and refuses to be bound by anything the Federation negotiates.

A. Always anti-American, Williams currently claims US government is behind his ex-wife's recently renewed demands for back alimony.

B. Williams--who may later become federal prime minister--prefers to delay negotiations and considers old US-UK agreement won't be binding after independence.

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200030005-6